



Scrub Oak

Scrub Oak *(Quercus spp.)*

Instant ID

- Any of a variety of stunted oaks (trees that produce acorns) growing in a scrub habitat
- Sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) has oval leaves with curled-under edges
- Myrtle oak (*Q. myrtifolia*) has shiny, rounded evergreen leaves
- Chapman's oak (*Q. chapmanii*) has larger leaves with different shapes
- Sandhill oak (*Q. inopina*) has leaves that curl and point upward
- All have gray bark and purplish-brown twigs
- Leaves are shinier than those growing in other habitats

Native Niches

- The Sandhill oak is endemic to (only found in) central Florida
- Prefers sandy soils of ancient dune ridges
- Grows in habitats with low nutrients and dry soils





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Plant Particulars

- Requires natural or prescribed fires to maintain size
- Leaves produce flammable chemicals which are released when heated to help fire move quickly and protect the roots
- Produces acorns that are an important food source for many animals
- Provide shade to sensitive plants and animals

Population Protection

- Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk
- Florida's scrub grows in high and dry areas, areas popular for building homes and businesses that displace native species
- Protecting scrub habitat protects endemic and imperiled species like the Florida scrub jay, Florida mouse and Florida scrub lizard

